

**ALLAGASH WILDERNESS WATERWAY RETREAT**  
**“River Drivers Agreement”**  
**MAY 10, 2003**

In an attempt to build consensus on a set of recommendations regarding access issues on the AWW, retreat participants kept in mind two sets of legitimate values: the desire to preserve the special wilderness character of the Allagash, while honoring the culture and traditional uses of the river by Maine sportsmen.

- 1) We Affirm the Consensus agreements (see table on page 3) from 2002 retreats, adding one language change regarding Chase Rapids limitations (“one way”), except for Bissonette (see #2)
- 2) We agree to modify the MOA treatment of Bissonette Bridge trail extension – leave existing turnaround as is.
- 3) We approve a series of measures designed to Create and Enhance wilderness character of AWW
  1. Improve wild fisheries – DOC and IF&W develop agreement by 7/1/03
  2. Redesign campsites to make them more natural; split up large campsites; utilize landscape for screening
  3. Employ landscape architect to evaluate Waterway to enhance wilderness values
  4. Create fall back campsites near popular campsites; furlough and rotate campsites
  5. Consider color coding system of uses to direct waterway usage; reduce conflicts of usage where and when use conflicts occur
  6. Establish maximum number of days to stay at campsites, example: no more than 3 days in peak summer season except in emergency
  7. Employ advanced information systems tracking usage and making information available to public
  8. Stagger entrance into waterway; consider Boundary Waters canoe registration system; look at Baxter Park parking system
  9. Visually screen structures along waterway
  10. Inventory existing buildings and camps, remove buildings and camps where feasible
  11. Undertake carrying capacity analysis
  12. Creatively utilize waterway staff to enhance wilderness values
  13. Develop brochure (hard and electronic versions) that convey detailed information regarding usage along waterway – an “insiders guide”
- 4) Michaud Farm Road
  1. Cunliffe
    - a. no vehicle access
    - b. canoe only
    - c. screen campsite with vegetation
  2. Ramsey Ledge (west side)
    - a. maintain vehicle access
    - b. vehicle accessible camping
    - c. screen parking from the campsite and the river with vegetation as necessary
    - d. develop good signage
  3. development of new campsite across river for canoe access as appropriate to minimize visual impacts
  4. Retire road south of Ramsey Ledge (subject to land owner approval)

5) Land Acquisition

1. Acquire parcel in Town of Allagash for permanent take-out (LMF water access funds)
2. Buy land down river of Twin Brooks toward Allagash Village when it becomes available to add to AWW
3. Create a sub-committee to identify other sites to protect or possibly acquire, along the Waterway (based on availability) for trails, expansion of 500 feet, and other important sites such as Priestly Mountain Trail and Priestly Mountain, Indian Pond and Indian Stream Township, Mud Pond Carry (improve condition of carry), and deer yards adjacent to Allagash when they become available example: Gamache Brook

6) Creation of Historical/Cultural Visitor Center

1. Develop a cultural/heritage center at new take-out parcel in Town of Allagash
2. Explore idea of Michaud Farm historic place, that could involve restoration of Taylor camps and historical demonstrations – canoe access only

7) Timber Harvesting – Collect data on visual and noise impacts along the AWW; work with landowners to minimize noise and visual impacts along the waterway; better monitoring of cutting on state owned land

8) Henderson Brook

1. Create vehicle access at bogan with the ability to unload heavy loads (if this access is acceptable, then Jalbert's would use this new access to unload )
2. Until the new bogan access can accommodate the heavy loads and in the event that the new access does not work properly then grandfathering with a plug for Jalbert's Camp at current access

9) Restoring road to Churchill Dam from its current poor condition to a significantly improved condition with the cooperation of the current landowners (primarily on the east)

10) We agree there will be no development at John's bridge; a special day use sticker will be issued on an annual basis that would allow people to go to John's Bridge to put in canoe

1. May and September only, day use only
2. Unload parallel to road, no backing down to river (block)
3. Promote access to Churchill Dam and Indian Stream as preferred alternative (no advertisement of access at John's Bridge)
4. Track usage

11) Enhance Indian Stream put in; provide information about its availability for use

12) Special designation outside under Bureau of Parks and Lands for AWW

1. AWW ambassador program
2. special ranger designation

Site	Comments/Action
<b><u>Segment 1. Allagash Lake &amp; Stream</u></b>	
Island Campsite	Make water access only by rule/block trail
Road access to Allagash Lake	With landowner ok, block new roads at ¼ mile. Needs clarification with existing rule prohibiting vehicles within one mile of lake 5/1-9/30
Trail and tributary access to lake	Continue to allow access
<b><u>Segment 2. Chamberlain &amp; Telos Lakes</u></b>	
Chamberlain Bridge	Continue vehicle access including disabled; reduce visual impact with new vegetation; consider changing trip start location
Mud Pond Carry	Seek formal protection
Allagash Stream	Continue to allow access
Webster Stream	Continue to allow access
Mud Pond Stream	Continue to allow access
Tramway Portage	Continue to maintain
Telos Lake	Adopt policy statement this is especially remote and wild area and no further access points will be developed
<b><u>Segment 3. Eagle &amp; Churchill Lakes</u></b>	
Ziegler Trail	Close summer access by rule and block trail to campsite
Russell Cove Trail	Close summer access via rule and block
Churchill Depot	Continue vehicle access (including disabled access) to Churchill Lake; relocate parking per MOA so not visible from water
Trail and tributary access	Continue to allow
Eagle Lake trout study	Recommend IF&W make it high priority
<b><u>Seg. 4 Churchill Dam to Long Lake Dam</u></b>	
Canoe access below dam	Continue trail access for canoes below dam
Bissonnette	<del>Lengthen trail per MOA to at least 400'</del>
Chase Rapids Shuttle	Eliminate cost to bureau
Chase Rapids Shuttle	<del>Allow only downriver shuttle</del> <b>one way shuttle only</b>
Chase Rapids Shuttle	Drop off shuttled dunnage at 400' trailhead
Bissonnette/Umsaskis	Explore potential campsite between them
Umsaskis Thoroughfare	Relocate entrance to parking lot behind ranger camp; disabled accessible trail (400-500') and use of canoe dollies allowed
Umsaskis Thoroughfare	Block water access on east side of bridge
Umsaskis Thoroughfare	Close present road and landscape to address visual impact